

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12-15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23-27, and 31 are currently pending. All claims stand rejected. Applicant hereby cancels claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 12-13 without prejudice, reserving the right to pursue the subject matter claimed therein in a divisional application.

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, and 31.

The rejections of claims 1, 4, 7, 12 and 13 under section 102(c) over Seckler (US 2003/0205548), and claims 1, 4, 6, 9 and 10 under section 103(a) over Chu (US 6,305,571) (“Chu”) in view of Swett et al. (US 3,820,692) is moot in light of the amendments.

Claims 25-27 stand rejected under section 102(c) over Chu. Applicants traverse.

Chu describes a lid that is constructed in a manner that results in the purported invention of a “splashless baffle” and, in fact, does not teach the claimed invention directed towards methods for cooling bulk fluid from a container (as claimed in claims 25-27). Chu describes, specifically from col. 4, ln. 48 – col.5, ln.24 and in Fig. 4, a lid that includes a baffle that dispenses fluid by collecting fluid first in an interior cavity and then through a drinking port. There is no reservoir for collecting a drinkable portion and then allowing such to cool, as claimed. In fact, Chu does not teach collecting and cooling, but instead teaches the method in the following cited passage:

fluid 19 in the annular channel 43 is funneled or channeled toward the baffle openings 35 and into the interior or annular cavity 31 of the lid device 20. When a sufficient amount of fluid 19 enters the interior cavity, it will then be dispensed through the drinking port 32.

Col. 4, ln. 50-54. Furthermore, Chu teaches that when upright, the lid is constructed with a drain port so that the lid “gravity drain[s] any fluid remaining in the interior cavity 31 out through a drain port 46 when the container is repositioned back upright.” Col. 5, ln. 2-4. These passages refer to Fig. 4 of Chu. Upon viewing Chu in its entirety, Chu actually teaches away from the present invention, which collects hot fluids and allows cooling in a timely period.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests this rejection be withdrawn.

In conclusion, the Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and request an early indication of the same. Should the Examiner have any questions that may be addressed through a teleconference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

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